

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS LONDON 03199

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SALISBURY CORRESPONDENTS OF SUNDAY
NEWSPAPERS REPORT ON PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT
AND ZANU INTERNECINE WARFARE

1. THE OBSERVER, MARCH 1, HAS ARTICLE DATED SALISBURY WRITTEN BY NEAL ASCHERSON CLAIMING IAN SMITH HAS BEEN LAYING PLANS TO DIVIDE HIS AFRICAN OPPONENTS AND IF THAT FAILS, TO "DIG A SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE." ASCHERSON CLAIMS THAT IT LOOKS AS IF A NEW ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN MR. SMITH AND THE ANC IS IMMINENT, POSSIBLY NEXT WEDNESDAY. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO DISCUSS AGAIN THE TIME, PLACE AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

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2. ASCHERSON ALLEGES THAT A "HIGH OFFICIAL SOURCE" (UN-

NAMED) IN THE SMITH GOVERNMENT TOLD HIM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO SPLIT THE ANC, AS THERE IS NO HOPE OF REACHING ANY ACCOMMODATION WITH THE ZANU PEOPLE. ASSUMING THE FAILURE OF A CONFERENCE, THE SMITH GOVERNMENT IS PUBLICIZING ITS "PROVINCIALISATION" PLAN, ANOTHER VERSION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S "SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT." THIS PLAN CALLS FOR THREE AUTONOMOUS AREAS, TWO BLACK AND ONE WHITE, UNDER A NOMINATED FEDERAL PARLIAMENT. PURPOSE WOULD BE TO SHOW SOUTH AFRICANS SMITH HAS DONE HIS BEST TO SETTLE WITH ANC, BUT FAILED, AND IS NOW IMITATING VORSTER. ASCHERSON SPECULATES SOUTH AFRICANS NOT LIKELY TO BE IMPRESSED, AS SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL LEADERS MADE NO SECRET IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM OF THEIR "PESSIMISM AND ANGER" OVER SMITH'S "EVASION" OF A SECRET UNDERSTANDING WITH VORSTER THAT RHODESIANS WOULD MOVE TO MAJORITY RULE OVER SHORT SPAN OF YEARS.

3. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST IN ASCHERSON ARTICLE INCLUDE:

A) COMMENT TO HIM BY NDABANINGI SITHOLE THAT WHAT "WE" WANT IS IMMEDIATE INTERIM GOVERNMENT DOMINATED BY BLACKS, AND WHICH CAN PASS NECESSARY LEGISLATION FOR FULL-FLEDGED MAJORITY RULE, TRANSITIONAL PERIOD TO BE WORKED OUT AT CONFERENCE; B) ESTIMATE THAT EVERYTHING POINTS TO FAILURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND CONTINUATION OF WAR; C) STATEMENTS THAT RHODESIAN ARMY AND POLICE ARE DESPERATELY SHORT OF MANPOWER AND "IT IS KNOWN" THAT ARMY LEADERS AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ARE PRESSING SMITH TO SETTLE "BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE."

4. SUNDAY TIMES ON MARCH 2 HAS REPORT FROM "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" OF GEMINI NEWS SERVICE OF ATTACK ON ZANU MILITARY CHIEF JESIAH TONGOGARA IN DECEMBER IN AFTERMATH OF WHICH 45 GUERRILLA FIGHTERS WERE REPORTEDLY SLAIN. ATTACK WAS PRECIPITATED BY A GROUP OF MANYIKA IN ZANU WHO BECAME UNHAPPY OVER NEPOTISM OF KARANGA. THIS REPORT ALSO CLAIMS KARANGA ABDUCTED JOHN MATAURE, ZANU'S CHIEF POLITICAL COMMISSAR, AND RICHARD HOVE, ONE-TIME ZANU REPRESENTATIVE IN BRITAIN, BOTH MANYIKA. THEY WERE RELEASED WHEN THEIR FAMILIES PRESSURED ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT. CORRESPONDENT CONCLUDES BY ALLEGING THAT KARANGAS HOPE PEACE UNCLASSIFIED

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MOVES WILL FAIL AND INTENSIFICATION OF GUERRILLA WAR WILL ALLOW THEM TO MAINTAIN THEIR POWER. MAJORITY OF ZANU, HOWEVER, ARE WORRIED THAT THEIR LEADERS PRIVATELY SCORN UNITY UNDER THE ANC AND IF THERE IS NO IMPROVEMENT AND "NO SENSIBLE APPROACH" TO RHODESIAN PROBLEM SOON, WILL ABANDON ZANU AND LOOK ELSEWHERE.

RICHARDSON

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